

Message Text

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14

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 3726

DEPT PLEASE PASS SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CAN

SUBJ: DONALD JAMIESON - NEW CANADIAN SECRETARY OF
STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

1. SUMMARY: JAMIESON AS EXTERNAL AFFAIRS PROMISES TO GIVE US A MORE VIGOROUS, MORE INFLUENTIAL AND MORE OPEN INTERLOCUTOR THAN WE HAVE HAD IN MACEACHEN. TRUDEAU OBVIOUSLY EXPECTS THAT HIS SKILL AT PUBLIC RELATIONS, HIS PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE IN ECONOMICS AND HIS INITIATIVE WILL CONVERT FOREIGN AFFAIRS FROM BEING AN ELECTORAL MINUS OR NET WASH FOR THE LIBERALS INTO A PLUS. HE MAY ALSO CALCULATE THAT JAMIESON, WITH HIS BUSINESS ORIENTATION, NON-NATIONALIST PHILOSOPHY AND UNABRASIVE PERSONALITY MAY BE THE RIGHT MAN TO MAKE RELATIONS WITH THE US WORK BETTER. LEFT TO HIMSELF HE MAY BE EXPECTED TO DO SO. BUT WE AS YET HAVE NO INDICATIONS OF HIS POLICY GUIDANCE, IF ANY. END SUMMARY.

2. JAMIESON IS SHORT, BURLY, ENERGETIC, FUNNY, INFORMAL, AFFABLE, QUICK. HE IS A GOOD ADMINISTRATOR, AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO GET MORE THAN HIS PREDECESSOR OUT OF THE DIFFUSE, SOMETIMES FLACID EXTERNAL BUREAUCRACY.

3. JAMIESON'S POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY IS MODERATELY CONSERVATIVE, PRAGMATIC, RATHER PRO-BUSINESS, SKEPTICAL
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OF LARGE-SCALE SPENDING, FAR LESS DIRIGISTIC THAN MANY OF

HIS CABINET COLLEAGUES.

4. JAMIESON'S POLITICAL INFLUENCE STEMS IN PART FROM BEING A DOMINANT FIGURE IN HIS HOME PROVINCE OF NEW-FOUNDLAND, AND CERTAINLY BEST KNOWN AND ABLE POLITICIAN IN OTTAWA FROM THAT PROVINCE. SKILL WITH WHICH HE HAS PERFORMED IN SUCCESSIVE MINISTERIAL POSTS HAS CONSOLIDATED HIS POSITION WITHIN BOTH CABINET AND LIBERAL PARTY.

5. JAMIESON IS WELL DISPOSED TOWARDS THE UNITED STATES. HE HAS STATED ON MANY OCCASIONS (IN PUBLIC AND IN PRIVATE) THAT WHILE CANADA SHOULD CONTINUE TO DIVERSIFY FOREIGN RELATIONS, IT MUST ATTACH HIGHEST PRIORITY TO RELATIONS WITH THE MAJOR CUSTOMER AND SUPPLIER TO THE SOUTH. IN MEETINGS WITH SENIOR U.S. OFFICIALS HE HAS GONE OUT OF HIS WAY TO EMPHASIZE DESIRE TO WORK WITH US AND CONSULT CLOSELY IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE IRRITANTS IN THE RELATIONSHIP.

6. BORN IN ST. JOHN'S NEWFOUNDLAND IN 1921 IN HUMBLE CIRCUMSTANCES, JAMIESON IS SELF-MADE. HIS FORMAL EDUCATION ENDED WITH SECONDARY SCHOOL AND COMMERCIAL DIPLOMA FROM MERY CONVENT IN ST. JOHN'S. HE STARTED BROADCASTING CAREER IN CANADIAN ARMED FORCES DURING WW II AND LATER BECAME PRESIDENT OF NEWFOUNDLAND BROADCASTING COMPANY, LTD., A DIRECTOR OF CTV NETWORK AND OF BAVARIAN BREWING COMPANY. BETWEEN 1961-65 HE WAS PRESIDENT OF CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF BROADCASTERS.

7. JAMIESON ENTERED FEDERAL POLITICS IN 1966 WINNING BY-ELECTION TO HOUSE OF COMMONS. HE WAS MINISTER OF DEFENSE PRODUCTION 1968-69; MINISTER OF TRANSPORT, 1969-72; MINISTER OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION, 1972-75; AND MINISTER OF INDUSTRY, TRADE AND COMMERCE, SEPT 75 UNTIL APPOINTMENT TO EXTERNAL AFFAIRS THIS WEEK. JAMIESON IS MARRIED WITH A SON AND THREE DAUGHTERS.
ENDERS

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NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECRETARY.

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